

WHAT IS CLAIMED

1. A discard rack that moves and reads suit and rank of individual cards between a card in-feed area and a card collection area, the discard rack comprising:

5 a card in-feed area with card moving elements that move individual cards from a set of cards in the card in-feed area,

 a card collection area that receives cards from the card moving area in the same order as cards are received in the card in-feed area,

10 an image capture device that captures data from a card before the card is received in the card collection area,

 a communication port to send out captured data to a processor, and

 an elevator that lowers to maintain a level at which cards are received in the card collection area.

15 2. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein the elevator raises cards to assist in manual card removal.

 3. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein the card moving elements move only bottom card, and wherein the card moving elements comprise rollers.

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 4. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein the image capture device operates discontinuously.

25 5. The discard rack of claim 4 wherein the image capture device is triggered to capture an image by a sensor that senses card location.

 6. The discard rack of claim 5 wherein the sensor that senses card location senses passage or presence of a card edge.

7. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein a jam recovery program is in memory communicating with the discard rack.

5 8. The discard rack of claim 7 wherein jam recovery is initiated by a command entered on the discard rack.

9. The discard rack of claim 1 wherein the communication port is communicatively connected to an external processor.

10 10. The discard rack of claim 9 wherein the external processor is also communicatively connected to a second device that reads the suit rank and order of cards before the cards are used in play of a casino table card game.

15 11. The discard rack of claim 10 wherein both the discard rack and the second device are present on a casino table.

12. A discard rack that moves individual cards from a card in-feed area to card collection area and reads both suit and rank of each card before the card is deposited in the card collection area, the discard rack comprising:

20 a card in-feed area with card moving elements that move only a bottom card from a set of cards in the card in-feed area,

a card collection area that receives cards from the card moving area in the same sense as cards are received in the card in-feed area,

25 an image capture device that captures data from a card while the card is in the card in-feed area,

a communication port to send out captured data to a processor, and

an elevator that lowers to maintain a level at which cards are received in the card collection area.

13. A method of reading cards at a casino card table comprising feeding a set of cards into a hand in-feed area, moving cards one at a time from a bottom of the set of cards in the in-feed area, reading the suit and rank of each card before the card is deposited into a card collection area, depositing each card in the card collection area in the same order and sense that cards had been fed into the card in-feed area.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the card collection area is an elevator with a support surface, and the support surface is lowered as more cards are fed into the card collection area.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein images of symbols representing suit and rank are taken discontinuously.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein snapshot images of symbols are triggered by cards being sensed by trigger sensors.